This Just In ...

A Bulletin for News of Political Prisoners and POWs

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STATEMENT OF LEONARD WEINGLASS, ATTY, on June 2, '95: "This morning Penns. Gov. Tom Ridge signed a death warrant for **Mumia Abu-Jamal**, an innocent man....An appeal for a stay of execution for Jamal will be filed in court on June 5....The legal papers, based on months of investigation, research and review, demonstrate unequivocally that Mumia, a man who has claimed his innocence since the very beginning, was the victim of a politically motivated, racially biased prosecution in which evidence of his innocence was suppressed. He was denied his most fundamental rights to a fair trial and appeal. As stated in the introductory statement of Jamal's Petition for Post-Conviction Relief: 'Petitioner Jamal was convicted of a crime he did not commit and sentenced to death based on his political views and history.....'" {For full text, write to TJI]

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SUSAN ROSENBERG writes from Danbury, CT, FCI where she was moved from Marianna, FL. : "I'm parole-eligible but haven't gone to the board yet." *** Job: "Chaplain library" *** Activity: "AIDS education, writing." *** "After 10 1/2 years in prison this is the first time I've been in general population and not in lockdown or small unit. It's an enormous adjustment, but given the circumstances one that I am happy to make." *** "I am deeply angered by the setting of an execution date for Mumia Abu-Jamal. I think that all of us must intensify our efforts. We can't just let it go down."

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MARILYN BUCK in Dublin FCI writes: "It seems that a GED test was [stolen]...The officials threatened that the GED program would be discontinued, which would mean that under new law passed last November, prisoners who already have GEDs would not get good days and would have no possibility of getting them for however long the program would be discontinued. The test was recovered but program is still in question. The vengeance of the State..." *** "Working in PLACE along with Linda Evans and Laura Whitehorn since she arrived. We have been prepared to do an AIDS orientation program directed at new arrivals. Unfortunately it gets canceled because 'staff not available.' But we are." *** "I continue to do clay sculpture, though it is being curtailed temporarily for me because I have ...the lead in the play 'Lysistrata'...Some suggest I was typecast--ah well. " *** "...a plan by Laura and me to make a number of clay and painted medallions to contribute to the ongoing efforts to save our brother Mumia's life. Friday 2 June was a grave day for us all here upon hearing of this latest act of deliberate barbarism by the State.. To assassinate a voice of the oppressed is a savage attack on all freedom-loving peoples." *** "We here send our love and solidarity to all our sisters and brothers imprisoned for struggling for liberation and justice."

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The following people wrote before they had heard about Mumia.

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DAVID GILBERT writes from Comstock, NY: "Still being kept on a roller coaster as to whether our AIDS Community Health Education Center will be approved or not. The prospect of its approval led to a sgt. hostile to the idea initiating a confrontation with me, and later telling me repeatedly how close I came to going to the box. But this was just an isolated piece of madness. Mainly, it is hard to move

forward because there is so much uncertainty and chaos here. We are 2/3 of the way through a second round of training of peer educators on AIDS, but have already lost 1/2 the men to keeplocks or transfers. Basically with the AIDS & TB work it feels like we regularly get hit by tidal waves of entropy--and then pick ourselves up and start to inch forward again.

"There is a new prisoner program initiative here--M.A.N. (Mentoring and Nurturing). The concept is for some older prisoners to take responsibility to offer the younger guys some skills, as an alternative to the negative trends of internal violence. The organizers asked me to help set up a workshop on writing skills, which I've agreed to do....It should ...benefit me to be in closer touch with some of the younger prisoners.

"We were in a 3 1/2 day lock-down/shakedown on Memorial Day Weekend. The immediate cause was a brawl in the yard involving over 50 prisoners. (Fortunately it doesn't seem that anyone was seriously injured). 3 to 5 shots were fired from the tower. This incident seems to be part of a growing trend of conflicts becoming large group beefs; frequently it is a Black group on one side and Latino on the other. In addition to the shakedown, the admin. is now talking about more limitations or divisions on yard time to limit how many are out at one time.

"The admin. has just announced that they intend to start double bunking in about 8% of the cells(6' x 8') on June 19th! That should help a lot with the tensions of the place, not to mention the HIV and TB epidemic! I don't yet have a reading on what the prisoner response will be like.

"It was sickening to watch pictures of the gruesome bombing in Okla. City, especially with the babies who were killed. Now it is infuriating to see Pres. Clinton & media campaign to tar the 'far left' with this bloody brush. Not only are our goals totally the opposite of the white supremacists, but, reflecting that, the armed actions of the internal nat. lib. mvts. and of the anti-imperialist left have always taken the greatest care (as the gov't knows) to not harm random civilians. ...

"I recently received and read Mumia's new book. It is very powerfully written, a beautiful piece of work! I'm writing a review.

"Love and solidarity to all..."

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KALONJI JIHAD writes from Maximum Control in Westville, IN: "Post Conviction Relief pending." *** "Just restored telephone calls." *** "Shoes can be worn in cells." *** "No jobs allowed." *** Activity: "Writing essays, articles, pamphlets." *** "I sent a complaint...about highly contaminated water at MCC to de Northern District Court of Indiana....[also to the clerk]...50 days has passed and de clerk has still not notified me." *** Kalonji tells how the authorities have not prescribed the correct glasses for his problem with farsightedness. *** "Love to all POW's, P.P.'s, righteous oppressed people. Fight on..."

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ABDUL OLUGBALA SHAKUR writes from Pelican Bay: "I have a scheduled release date 2019 but this date is irrelevant, for I have also a life sentence without the possibility of parole for 9 yrs. plus another 6 years. which I got since I've been in prison (an attempted murder of a prison guard (1985) and one on a rat (1986). I am required to appear in front of the board of prison term which I won't [do]." *** Rules: "They have rejected at least 4 of the publications that I've been receiving, which they consider inflammatory--anything pro-Black and revolutionary." *** "Hugo Pinell (the only remaining San Quentin Six in prison--31 yrs.) and myself plan to write a pamphlet concerning the Black Prison Movement. We are also rewriting the first pamphlet "Poverty, Crime and Government" since we found a publisher...I am also restructuring my committee; it would be more of a cadre providing the community with vital info, as well as exposing the existence of PP/POWs." *** "My motha is doing well--doing what she does best--teach--30 yrs." ***

"After years of taking pride in...my fatha, an active member in the BPP, who taught us not to trust the government,...I recently discovered he was a paid informant for the Dept. of Justice. Truthfully this has affected me, but I continue to struggle." *** "I send my love to Mumia--and, Jalil, thanks for the letter of encouragement. It arrived about the 12th day of my hunger strike. And Brotha Sanyika, I fully support your come clean article." *** "My supporter, Prof. Richard Korn has been invited to South Afrika [by Nelson Mandela] for a special conference--" each of the world leaders there would be required to spend one day in prison on Robbin Island breaking rocks. "He intends to tell my story and that of Hugo Pinell." *** [If he interviews me] "I intend to speak about all the pp/pows in Amerikkka...[and] about the New Afrikan Independence Movement." Abdul would like to hear from anyone who wants to help him in his efforts.

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SANYIKA SHAKUR writes from Pelican Bay: "I may be able to recoup my last 30 days, which would put my parole date back to 9/29/95. We'll see." *** "New law whereas all books, mags, newspapers must come thru special purchase--meaning monies used from prisoner's account." *** "No group activities, locked in all day--& night." *** "Two new books are complete. My amerikan literary agent says they don't reflect my 'writing ability.' This is probably so because they are New Afrikan-centered--offer solutions--things to do? Welcome to the terrordome! Will get them published." *** "Came down with a nasty cold last month. I've not been sick in four years. Pigs probably brought it on the unit." *** "Comrade-wife Tamu is well, holding up, awaiting my arrival. 3 children are fine. My daughter Keonda will be 15 in July." *** "Heard that the Attorney General is opening the Son of Sam Law up on my first book to stop proceeds. *** "Bro. Shaka Shakur, holler if you hear me. I feel you, Maroon, I'm pumping the brakes. Rev. greetings Maulana. Stand firm Ana." "Respect to all P.O.Ws & P.P's."

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MAULANA MODIBO EUSI writes from Marion: "Fervent unadulterated and undying revolutionary love to ALL! Prince Imari A. Obadele, have someone from your end send me a copy of 'The Goldfront Project' program." *** "Uhura Sasa..."

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ABDUL AZIZ BALLANTINE writes from USP Lompoc, CA where he has been for 7 weeks: "You may want to know why so much time passed without your hearing from me but, during the past 8 months prison officials have been carrying me really, really, really rough--On Sep 22nd they put me in the hole under investigation and claiming that I was putting pressure on other prisoners to force them to become Muslims and join our community. The truth of the matter is, because of our propagation efforts our community began to grow and the authorities here got scared that we were getting too strong so they decided to weaken our community by isolating our leadership.

"I was at Leavenworth for the past 13 straight years and they know full well that I don't involve myself in the type of foolishness they accuse me of. They kept me in the lockdown for 6 1/2 months and then sent me way out here to California. The Virgin Islands Government gave one of my co-defendants a complete pardon last December and now he is free on the streets.

"Right now I'm trying to find out from them what kind of consideration they have planned for me. It seems as if something strange is going on because since they let the guy go he hasn't written me a single line to let me know how he got released or what he is doing to help the rest of us who are still left behind."

"I'm just beginning to get myself situated here. I was here before--back in 1982 but they sent me to Leavenworth and now returning back here after 13 years it seems like a completely different place." *** "I will now close our conversation but I needed to drop

you these few lines to let you know that I'm still hanging in there and that I surely appreciate the good works you are doing for us prisoners."

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JOSE HAMZA SALDANA writes from Southport C.F., Pine City, NY where he was moved from Auburn, SHU, "In March I was found guilty of 'unauthorized organizational activity,' and sentenced to 548 days in SHU. under a *new rule* that's being applied to suppress political expression and association (Rule 105.12)." *** "Wife and children remain very supportive." *** "To all Muslim prisoners: We constitute a captive Ummah. The Sharia'h is not held in suspension during the length of our captivity. So we must struggle to establish the authority of the Sharia'h for all Muslim prisoners and to re-establish the Khaliphate for Yadullah Movement!" *** "Namza!"

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CHUCKIE AFRICA writes from Graterford, PA: "Good to hear that the spirits of all the sisters and brothers are high. In these times of increasing insurgency by the state all must remain strong. Other than my own legal matters, we are still focusing on getting as much support as we can for Mumia Abu-Jamal. We all got to do it. Last week's benefit in NY was a success w/must appreciated support from actors Mike Farrell, Ed Asner & Whoopi Goldberg, etc. We damn sure won't get anything from people like Jesse Jackson and Farrakhan--so--called Black leaders who haven't said *one word* about this legal lynching taking place!" *** So salutes to all efforts from every front and sector in trying to save our comrade's life..." *** "The family are all doing good and hard at work as always. Ramona, Alberta, MOVE children and everybody have been very busy the last few weeks w/much activity centering around the 10th year of the murder of my family." *** "Stay strong, everybody." *** "On the MOVE."

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ELEGGUA OSUN ELUFE writes from Eastern NY state C.F.:"My appeal from my last denial is in the court, waiting for decision. I am scheduled for another hearing in Sept. or Oct. of this year.." *** "New York State...wants certain prisoners to pay for their college tuition." *** "We just won our housing unit's soccer competition--I am still a work-out fanatic." *** Still involved with the non-violence program, prisoner's AIDS education, legal research." *** "In involved with a couple of prisoner's support groups --in the prison system and outside these walls." *** "It is very motivating to be a part of 'This Just In,' and to share with my brothers & sisters our spiritual strength and support. Remain defiant--our communicating is a unifying force--after the storms the sun will shine..."

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SEKOU CINQUE KAMBUI, by way of his wife Aysha, he has informed us that at a parole hearing Aysha presented Sekou's "numerous certificates and awards from various DOC programs," gave as evidence his "role model status as evidenced by his placement in the Community Living Dorm..." Parole denied by a board a majority of which were white. It was all "emotionally devastating to Sekou's wife, daughter Kim and grandson Josef, all who attended the hearing. *** Phone calls are interrupted every 2-3 minutes, "with a voice announcing the phone call is from the prison." The explanation was that this was in order to stop 3-way calls which the prison authority claimed could be intruded upon by inmates. :*** Aysha reports: "The repression is growing...The t.v. cable is gone; free stamps and writing materials curtailed." *** "Recent 'disappearance' of court records and transcript of Sekou's 1993 hearing in which he won...his case against the parole authorities for racial harassment...." *** "We are in the process of incorporating a family/friends unit to serve as lobbyists and activists speaking out in opposition to the present situation in Alabama and across the country which denies to prisoners...the rights of human respect and dignity....we ask all interested activists...to join with us in this struggle by putting aside all or-

ganizational differences and working together...."

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LOCATIONS FOR PRISONERS IN THIS BULLETIN:

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*** Abdul Aziz (Ballantine) #96521-131, 3901 Klein Blvd., USP Lompoc, CA 93436

*** Marilyn Buck #00482-285, 5701 8th St., Camp Parks A, Dublin CA 94568

*** Eleggua Osun Elufe #80A692, Box 338, Napanoch, NY 12458-0338

*** Maulana Modibo Eusi #02218-045, USP Marion, PO Box 1000, Marion, IL 62959

*** David Gilbert, #83A6158, Box 51, Comstock, NY 12821-0051

*** Kalonji Jihad #13303, Maximum Control Complex, PO Box 557, Westville, IN 46391-0557

*** Mumia Abu-Jamal #M8335, SCI Greene, 1040 E. Roy Furman Hwy., Waynesburg, PA 15370-8090

*** Susan Rosenberg #03684-016, Pembroke Station, Danbury, CT. 06811

*** J. Hamza Saldana #88A3111, SCF Box 2000, Pine City, NY 14871

*** Sanyika Shakur (K..ScottD) #07829, P.B.S.P., PO Box 7500, Crescent City, CA 95532, C-3-106

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